

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After line 11, Page 9 of the specification of the present application, please insert the following:

a1 -- Figure 27 is an enlarged perspective view, in partial section, of a modification of the yet another embodiment of the material feed apparatus of the present invention shown in Figures 19 - 24 and showing means for moving a branch entry of one of the branch ducts relative to the reference axis; --

After line 2, Page 30 of the specification of the present application, please insert the following:

a2 -- As seen in Figure 27, which is an enlarged perspective view, in partial section, of a modification of the yet another embodiment of the material feed apparatus of the present invention shown in Figures 19 -24, the material feed apparatus also comprises a means for moving the branch entry 366B of the branch duct 344B relative to the reference axis RA. In this modification of the yet another embodiment of the material feed apparatus of the present invention shown in Figures 19 -24, the branch duct 344B is movable independent of the other branch ducts 344A, 344C, and 344D. The means for moving the branch entry 366B of the branch duct 344B relative to the reference axis RA includes a Z-axis drive assembly 372A in the form of a step motor 374A having a rotating shaft 376A. A pinion gear 378A is fixedly secured to the free end of the rotating shaft 376A. A rack element 380A is secured to the branch duct 344B. The rack element 380A has a rack of gear teeth formed thereon which are meshingly engaged by the pinion gear 378A secured to the free end of the rotating shaft 376A of the step motor 374A. The step motor 374A is operable to rotate the pinion gear 378A through a selected angular displacement relative to the rotational axis of the rotating shaft 376A to thereby effect, via meshing engagement between the pinion gear 378A and the rack of gear teeth of the rack element 380A, movement of the branch duct 344B relatively along the reference axis RA. --